

## Department of Energy (DOE) Fire Safety Committee

### Minutes of the April 29, 2003 meeting

Written by: Jim Bisker, Chairman

The meeting was held at the Amarillo College Business & Industry Center (Amarillo, Texas) in conjunction with the Year 2003 DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop (hosted by the Pantex site).

#### DOE Wildland Fire Management Guidance

The Committee Chairman presented members with the recently developed Wildland Fire Management Guidance and asked for any review comments by June 1, 2003. It was pointed out that the purpose of this non-mandatory guidance is to coordinate DOE wildland fire management responsibilities with the other federal agencies under the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. This policy was endorsed by the Secretary of Energy on February 24, 2003, and is detailed in: "The Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy", dated January, 2001. The guidance describes DOE attributes of a documented wildland fire management plan using a graded approach based on a site's exposure to wildfires and/or land management planning objectives.

#### DOE O 420.1 Revision

In a January 3, 2003 letter to the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board Chairman, the Secretary of Energy committed to an Action Plan on the recommendations identified by the DOE Commission on Fire Safety and Preparedness. The Secretary assigned Ms. Beverly Cook, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (EH-1), the responsibility for managing the completion of the actions contained in the Action Plan and to implement changes to address the remaining fire safety recommendations that were identified by the Commission. Action Item 2.1 has a commitment to review DOE O 420.1 and revise as appropriate by January 31 of 2004. This commitment was discussed at the Fire Safety Committee meeting, where it was suggested by the chairman that any fire protection revisions be developed by this committee and forwarded to EH-1. In addition, revisions will also be needed for implementing guidance to this order. The Chairman will notify committee members on the revision schedule as soon as one is developed by EH. A discussion of potential revision topics took place with the following initial recommendations developed.

*Code of record (COR) clause:* Text needs to be revised to either highlight installation standards over administrative standards, or revised to allow the most current installation standard with COR acceptability based on an item cost vs. safety benefit.

*Local building code clause:* Text needs to be revised to identify the local statutory building regulations as taking precedence over any similar documents published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This revision is needed to address the

newly published NFPA 5000, "Building Construction and Safety Code" as well as other NFPA documents which may be redundant to local regulations.

*Baseline Needs Assessment clause:* Text should be revised to address the newly issued NFPA 1710 standard, "Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments". One such area discussed included the necessity for periodic review and update to the BNA based on the NFPA 1710, 4-year revision cycle.

#### EH Fire Protection Website and the DOE Fire Protection Handbook

The Committee Chairman identified that on March 11, 2003, the DOE Fire protection Handbook was officially canceled from DOE Standards revision process. The Chairman identified that current Handbook contents are available on the EH sponsored Fire Protection website (<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/fire/>) and that any revisions or updates to the Handbook could be best handled through future updates to the site. The Committee suggested that a sub-committee be formed to examine/recommend and future web site updates. Members of this sub-committee include: Dennis Kubicki, Bill Shields, Craig Christenson, Bruce Campbell and Jim Bisker.

#### Other Business

The Chairman notified the committee that a final review has been completed on Chapter 10 (Fire Protection) of the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook and that, based on this update, revisions may be needed for air cleaning topics covered in DOE Standard 1066, "Fire Protection Design Criteria".

The Chairman notified the committee that a significant revision is being made to DOE O 231.1, "Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting" that will affect loss rate statistics compiled through the Annual Fire Protection Summary. In short, the Order will no longer track property losses (fire and non-fire) through the CAIRS system and because of this, CAIRS will no longer maintain DOE property valuations. Since CAIRS property valuations are used to compute Annual Fire Protection Summary Loss Rates, we will have to use some other mechanism to obtain property values. For the calendar year 2002 Annual Summary, property valuations will continue to be calculated through the CAIRS process. However, the 2003 Annual Summary will be based on FIMS data (and possibly back-fed to 1998, which is the earliest year that FIMS has in its database). Because we are using a different database for valuations, it can be expected that historical loss rate numbers will change.

For additional information on these minutes or the DOE Fire Safety Committee, please contact Jim Bisker on (301) 903-654 ([jim.bisker@eh.doe.gov](mailto:jim.bisker@eh.doe.gov)).